

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10693

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CG RW BY
SUBJ: SUMMIT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF THE GREAT LAKES COUNTRIES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

A. ON DEC 24, HEADS OF STATE OF ZAIRE, BURUNDI AND RWANDA HELD
SUMMIT MEETING IN BUKAVU TO DISCUSS MODALITIES FOR PROPOSED
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT
LAKES COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO FINAL COMMUNIQUE, WHICH REPORTED
IN ZAIRIAN PRESS, HEADS OF STATE:

A. NAMED BONAVENTURE KINDWINGIRA, A BURUNDI, AS PERMANENT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SECRETARIAT;

B. DECIDED THERE WOULD BE TWO DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES,
ONE FROM ZAIRE, THE OTHER FROM RWANDA;

C. DECIDED THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMUNITY WILL BE
LOCATED IN GISENQI, RWANDA;

D. DECIDED TO GRANT IMMEDIATE 3 MILLION SDR ENDOWMENT TO
SECRETARIAT SO THAT IT CAN BEGIN OPERATION RIGHT AWAY;

E. NAMED BURUNDI CHIEF OF STATE, BAGAZA, PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY
FOR YEAR 1976-1977. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT:

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF GREAT LAKES
COUNTRIES FALLS WITHIN GOZ OBJECTIVE TO DRAW RWANDA AND BURNDI

INTO TIGHTER TRIPARTITE COOPERATION, THEREBY ENABLING IT TO
EXERT GREATER INFLUENCE OVER THESE COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, ZAIRE'S
OWN SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WILL LIMIT ITS ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH
THIS OBJECTIVE. WE WONDER WHO WILL PROVIDE THE 3 MILLION SDR
ENDOWMENT MENTIONED ABOVE. ZAIRE CAN ONLY DO SO AT THE EXPENSE
OF ESSENTIAL IMPORTS OR DEBT SERVICE OBLIGATIONS. END CONFIDENTIAL
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